

Remarks:

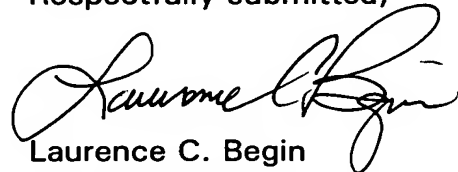
Applicant has amended based on the examiner's comments in paper no. 10. Antecedent basis for the amendments is found in the drawings, for example.

Relative to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102, Applicant notes that none of the references now respond to the limitations of the amended claims. Applicant therefore respectfully traverses the rejections under 35 U.S.C 102(b), for Priore in particular is not concerned with the cutting and simultaneous support of an elongated food product within an elongated hollow body as now claimed. Stated another way, neither Priore nor any other reference of record describes an elongated hollow body having a length greater than the diameter for cutting an elongated food product.

Relative to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103, Applicant notes that Berler does not resolve the deficiencies of Priore, for neither Berler nor Priore respond to a device or to a method of cutting involving an elongated food item supported by an elongated hollow body wherein the hollow body has a length greater than the diameter. Stated another way, the limitations of the claims are neither described nor suggested either alone or in combination with any of the references, and therefore a prima facie case of obviousness is simply not supported. In essence, the problem of supporting an elongated food item having dimensions roughly equivalent to the hollow body while cutting the food item is not discussed in the prior art, and therefore a solution to this problem is simply not described or suggested. Note for example, that Priore describes cutting of a pie, certainly not an elongated food item. Also note that Berler is not concerned with supporting an elongated food item because the food item to be processed is generally rigid and may be biased against the blades while remaining rigid. Accordingly, the hollow body of Berler is not elongated as in the present invention. See the Figures.

Accordingly, the allowance of claims 1-17 and passage of the subject application to issue is courteously solicited. Applicant has not calculated a fee to be due in connection with this paper. The Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayments or charge any deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 04-1131. If the Applicants may be of any further assistance in the prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (248) 364-2100.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laurence C. Begin", written in a cursive style.

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